

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 11, 34-35, 37, 46, and 48 as set for the above. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 7-12. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is respectfully requested.

With respect to the Office's objection to the drawings, Applicant has amended the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, of the specification to add a reference to reference character 606 in Figure 6. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

In addition, the Office has rejected claims 7, 11, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, the Office asserted that there is no antecedent basis for the limitations "the most salient sentences" and "the original sentences" in claim 7, "the predecessor" in claim 11, and "the plurality of frames" in claim 46. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 7, 11, and 46 herein to provide antecedent basis for these limitations. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Furthermore, the Office has rejected claims 1, 5, 8, 34-36, 39-41, 45, 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Klein (U.S. Patent 6,631,398). Moreover, the Office has rejected claims 6-7, 9-11, 42-44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein and the "AmikaFreedom™ User Guide, September 15, 2000," herein referred to as Amika. Additionally, the Office has rejected claims 37-38 and 48-55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein and Yong et al. (U.S. Patent 5,749,079).

With respect to independent claim 1, the Office asserts that Klein teaches a method for providing a display of an electronic mail collection, comprising forming at least one type of electronic mail message abbreviation from the electronic mail collection, the electronic mail collection having at least one electronic mail message; placing the at least one type of electronic mail message abbreviation in a collection viewing cascade; displaying the collection viewing cascade at the selected level; and receiving a selected level for viewing.

With respect to independent claim 34, the Office asserts that Klein teaches a method comprising creating a message collection viewing cascade for presenting at least one of one or more message threads and one or more messages which are associated with one or more message threads; abbreviating at least one of the messages associated with one of the message threads using one a plurality of abbreviation techniques; and formatting each abbreviated message to be displayed at one of a plurality of viewing levels in the message collection viewing cascade.

With respect to claim 48, the Office asserts that Klein discloses creating a plurality of message threads and “formatting” the “sorted” message threads to be displayed at the one or more of a plurality of “viewing levels” in a “collection viewing cascade” since Klein discloses viewing messages at levels and the messages must be “formatted” in order to be viewed. In addition, the Office states that Klein does not teach sorting the message threads based upon a number of messages in each message thread. Thus, the Office asserts that Yong discloses sorting a plurality of threads based on the number of messages in each thread (col. 10, lines 24-29). Accordingly, the Office asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Klein and Yong before him at the time the invention was made, to modify messages threads taught by Klein to include sorting a plurality of threads based on the number of messages in each thread as taught by Yong, because sorting based on the number of messages would allow users to read threads with the least or most number of messages first, depending on their preference which would enhance usability of the method since users would determine sorting based on their preferences.

The teachings of Klein, Yong, and Amika, taken either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, “wherein the collection viewing cascade includes a plurality of viewing levels for presenting the at least one type of electronic mail message abbreviation . . . wherein each viewing level in the collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting the at least one type of electronic mail message abbreviation” as recited in claim 1, “creating a message collection viewing cascade including a plurality of viewing levels for presenting at least one of one or more message threads and one or more messages which are associated with one or more message threads . . . wherein each viewing level in the message collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting the at least one or more message threads and one or more messages” as recited in claim 34, or “formatting the sorted message threads to be displayed at one or more of a plurality of

viewing levels in a collection viewing cascade . . . wherein each viewing level in the collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting the sorted message threads” as recited in claim 48.

Instead, as disclosed in the abstract, Klein generally teaches a method for managing messages, such as e-mail messages, so that redundant messages need not be reviewed by a user. In particular, as disclosed at col. 10, lines 52-60 in Klein, a method to monitor e-mail messages, identify redundant messages, and indicate the redundancy of the redundant messages to the user, for example, by deletion, by displaying the redundant messages in an distinct manner (e.g., dimmed), by changing the urgency or priority of the redundant messages, or by displaying the redundant messages in a folder other than the default folder is disclosed. However, the messages and redundant messages displayed in Klein retain the same degree of detail. Thus, Klein does not teach or suggest that each viewing level in a collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting message threads as claimed. Yong as disclosed at col. 10, lines 19-36 generally teaches an end user query technology which is capable of guiding a user to desired information wherein a list of “knowledge threads” can be generated and sorted accordingly to the number of files in a file list. However, like Klein, Yong does not teach or suggest that each viewing level in a collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting message threads as claimed. Amika relates generally to various features that may be utilized in an e-mail program such as Microsoft Outlook, but also does not teach or suggest each viewing level in a collection viewing cascade offers a different degree of detail for presenting message threads as claimed.

The present invention enables a user to determine which parts of a collection they would like to inspect and provides the user a degree of detail which is appropriate for the viewing level. As is described on pages 5-7 of the specification, the collection viewing cascade may include, for example, a listing of the threads in the collection with an initial fragment of the first message in the thread. If a user selects a thread for viewing, a plurality of alternate views for presenting the threads in increasing levels of detail are available. The different degrees of detail available may include, for example, simple outlines, display of initial substantive fragments of each message, a compressed versions or summaries of each message, and interacting frames. The availability of these viewing levels offering different degrees of detail allows the user to focus on the level of detail that is most desirable and

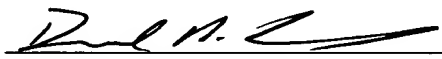
appropriate to their current task. The teachings of Klein, Yong, and Amika, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or render obvious, these significant advantages.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 34, and 48. Since claims 5-11 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 35-47 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 34, and claims 49-55 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 48, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 34, and 48.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 22, 2005


Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
c/o Gunnar G. Leinberg, Registration No. 35,584
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1014
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600